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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/988,528 | 11/20/2001 | Tomokazu Kakumoto | 018656-248 | 8861 |

7590 02/08/2006

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EXAMINER

LAM, HUNG H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2615

DATE MAILED: 02/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Supplemental
Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/988,528

Examiner

Hung H. Lam

Applicant(s)

KAKUMOTO ET AL.

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the telephone interview on 01/31/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are the same as previous office action.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

(Supplemental Action)

1. The replacement drawing 1, submitted on 10/06/05, has been accepted and entered.


Conclusion

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance." Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung H. Lam whose telephone number is 571-272-7367. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8AM - 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on 571-272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HL
01/31/06


DAVID OMETZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

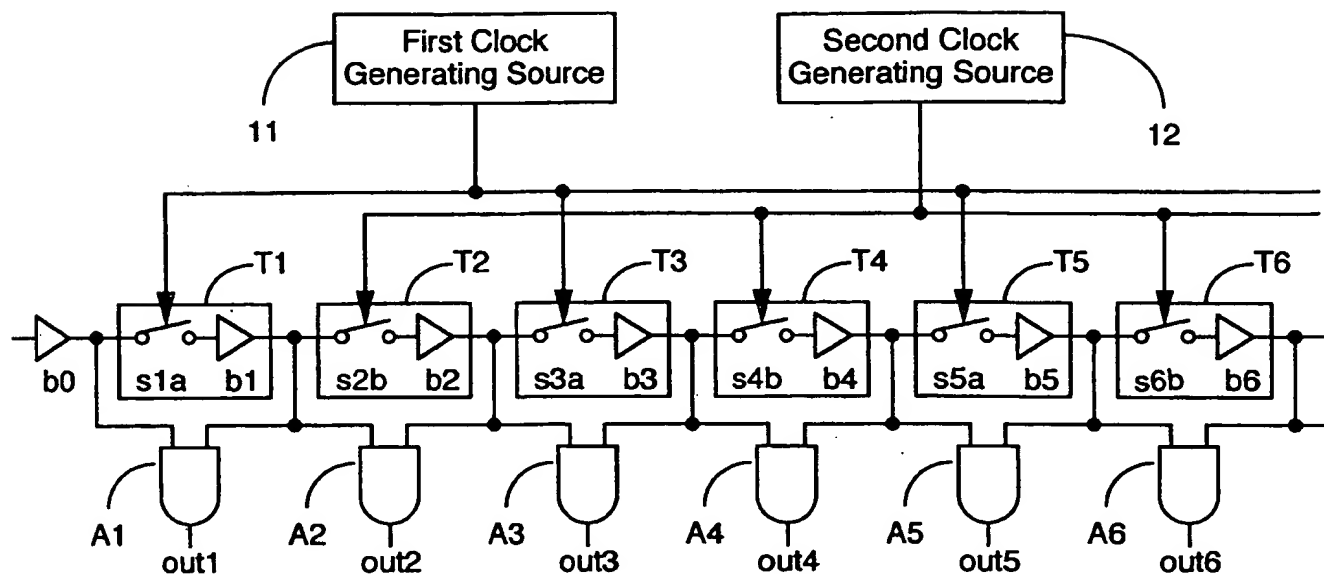


Fig. 1

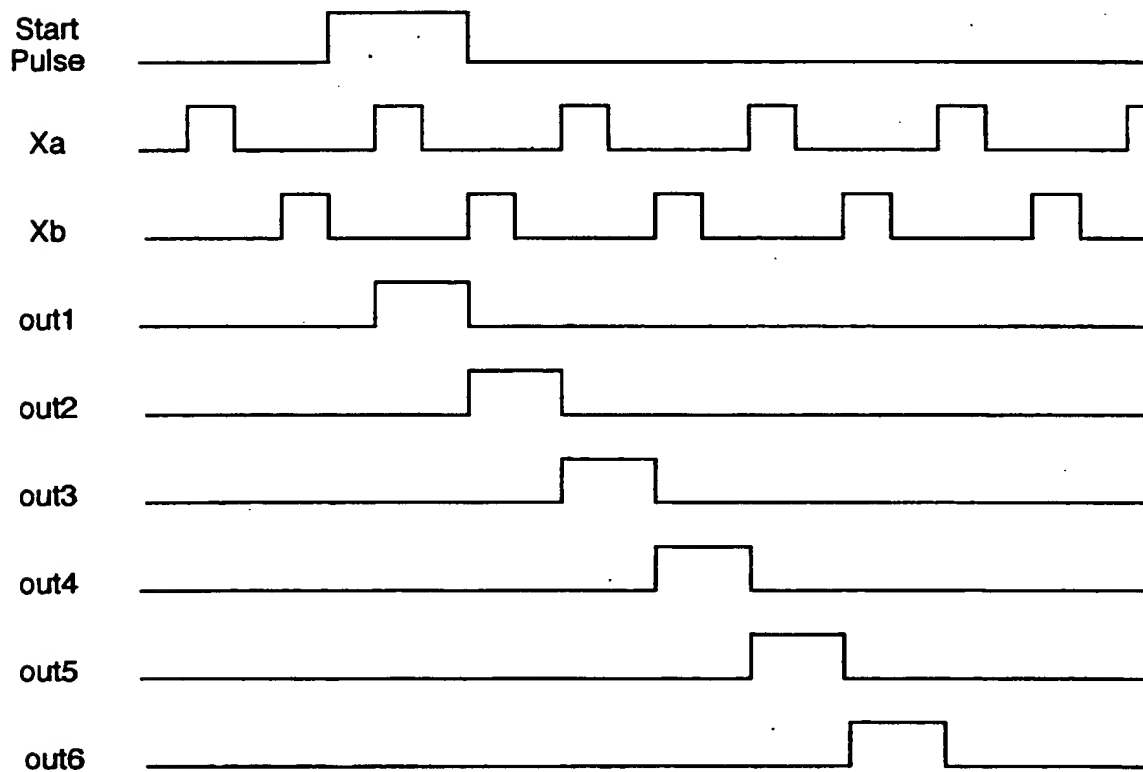


Fig. 2

PLEASE REPLACE THE ORIGINAL DRAWING (FIG. 1-2) WITH THE REPLACEMENT

Attorney's Docket No. 018656-248

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SHEET FILED

01/10/06/05

REMARKS

The Office Action of April 8, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully considered. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the above-captioned application.

It was noted that Figure 1 has a typographical error in that switches "s2a, s4a, and s6a" should have been -- s2b, s4b, s6b--, respectively. Applicants have submitted a replacement drawing with that amendment to Figure 1. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request that the replacement drawing be acknowledged in any following correspondence.

Claims 1-32 are pending in the application. Claims 6-9, 11-17, 20-26, 28-30 and 32 have been withdrawn. Claims 1-5, 10, 18, 19, 27 and 31 have been rejected. Applicants have canceled claims 3 and 4 and have added new claims 33-36.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Matsushima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,396,468).

Claim 27 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Yonemoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,166,769).

Claim 31 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Hayashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,818,413).

Claims 18 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsushima in view of Hayashi (U.S. Patent No. 5,818,413).

Applicants have currently amended claims 1, 18, 27 and 31 to recite, among other features, a transfer stage comprising one switch and one buffer.